



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF
R-19J

Norman Stoner, Administrator

Federal Highway Administration-Illinois Division
3250 Executive Park Drive

Springfield, Illinois 62703-4514

Dear Mr. Stoner:

The Midwest Clean Diesel Initiative is a public-private partnership created to reduce diesel emissions in the Midwest. Of the estimated 3.3 million existing diesel engines in the Midwest that are not affected by the United States Environmental Protection Agency's stringent standards for cleaner diesel fuel and engines, we estimate over 300,000 have already been affected through clean diesel technologies, cleaner fuels, and idle management programs. The Midwest Clean Diesel Initiative has set an aggressive goal to impact one million of these diesel-powered engines by 2010. To achieve this goal, a concerted effort that includes the public and private sectors is essential. We are assembling a group of leaders from a variety of sectors in our region to provide direction and perspective as we move forward.

Because you are a leader in your sector, I am inviting you to participate in the kick-off meeting of this Midwest Clean Diesel Leadership Group. This Leadership Group will be comprised of representatives from across the Midwest who have a role in reducing emissions from diesel-powered engines. Your insight regarding the perspectives of your sector helps to promote opportunities to reduce diesel emissions throughout Region 5, and would be invaluable.

Please join me at this meeting for a senior-level policy dialogue, which will take place on September 6th at 10:00 am in Room 1932 of Region 5's office in Chicago. In addition, you are invited to a conference entitled, "Tools and Incentives for Green Diesel Technology: Lower Emissions, Higher Profits" on Sept. 6th and 7th, which will take place at the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank located two blocks away from the Region 5 office. The focus of this conference is public and private finance tools, and incentives to reduce diesel emissions.

Enclosed is a preliminary agenda for the Leadership Group meeting, as well as information on the conference and accommodations. I hope that you are able to participate in this meeting, as well as the conference, and ask that you let Julie Magee, of my staff know by August 25th if you will be in attendance. Julie can be reached at (312) 886-6063 or magee.julie@epa.gov. We would welcome another senior-level representative from your organization if your schedule does not permit your attendance.

Very truly yours,

Bharat Mathur
Acting Regional Administrator